

HARRISONIELLA BEDFORD, 1928: PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF
A TYPE-SPECIES UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS (INSECTA,
MALLOPHAGA). Z.N.(S.) 1282

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The object of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its plenary powers to designate, as type-species of the genus *Harrisoniella* Bedford, 1929 (Mallophaga), the species generally accepted as such, thereby avoiding the serious confusion which would inevitably result from the application of the normal provisions of the *Règles* to this case, in which there is conclusive evidence that the nominal type-species of the genus was misdetermined.

2. The genus *Harrisoniella* was erected by Bedford (1929, *Rep. vet. Res. S. Africa* 15 : 529). The genus was described and the type-species was stated to be "*Esthiopterum diomedae* (Fabricius)". Immediately following the description of *Harrisoniella* there is a heading "1. *Harrisoniella diomedae* (Fabricius)", followed by a reference to the original description of *Pediculus diomedae* Fabricius and five references to supposed redescrptions of which four are under the name *Lipeurus ferox* Giebel and the fifth is to a name which, if it does not refer to a nymph of *ferox*, applies to the nymph of a taxon which is not more than subspecifically distinct from the latter. This list is followed by particulars of certain specimens in Bedford's collection which he considered to be *H. diomedae* (Fabricius).

3. The genus *Perineus* Harrison, 1936 was erected in a paper published by Thompson (1936, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (10)18 : 41) the type-species being stated to be *Lipeurus nigrolimbatus* Giebel, 1874 (*Insecta epizoa* : 233). Harrison's name is not mentioned in this paper, but his manuscript was published posthumously (Harrison, 1937, *Sci. Rep. Aust. Antarctic Exped.* (C) 2, part 1); in this work *Perineus* is described on p. 28 and the description is identical with that published by Thompson except for the inclusion of three words which Thompson omitted; a footnote on p. 5 claims Harrison's authorship* for certain other generic names published by Thompson from Harrison's manuscript.

4. Nearly all the members of both genera (as generally interpreted) occur on albatrosses, and all belong to the elongate type of *Ischnocera* adapted for life on the back and wings of the bird. On most albatrosses there are two species, one of which (hereafter called A) is very large (about 8 or 9 mm. long) and is almost wholly blackish in colour when adult, while the other (B) is much smaller and mainly white with black margins.

5. The original description of *Pediculus diomedae* Fabricius, 1775 (*Systema Entomologiae* : 808) is, as to be expected at that date, excessively brief and the

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* About this time Thompson admitted to me that Harrison was in fact the author of the manuscript which he, Thompson, had published.—N. D. Riley.

type material is lost. Only superficial characters are mentioned in the description but these are enough to exclude the possibility that Fabricius's material belonged to type A and are entirely consistent with the probability that it belonged to type B. The host-record is "*in Brasiliae diomedeis*".

6. Dufour (1835, *Ann. Soc. ent. Fr.* 4 : 669, pl. 21, figs. 1, 2) described and figured as *Philopterus diomedae* (Fabricius) a male and a nymph (called a female) of type A.

7. Giebel (1867, *Z. ges. NatWiss.* 29 : 195) described as *Lipeurus ferox* a specimen of type A.

8. Piaget (1880, *Pédiculines* : 334) suggested, correctly, that *Lipeurus ferox* Giebel, 1867, is the same as *L. diomedae* "(Fabricius)" of Dufour, 1835, and Taschenberg (1882, *Nova Acta Leop.-Carol.* 44 : 145) placed both *Pediculus diomedae* Fabricius and *Philopterus diomedae* Dufour in the synonymy of *Lipeurus ferox* Giebel, together with another species described by Dufour which does not belong to either of the genera under discussion. This incorrect identification of *diomedae* Dufour with *diomedae* Fabricius was generally accepted for very many years and is the cause of all the subsequent confusion. Until 1916, the name *Lipeurus ferox* was in general use for the composite, but Harrison (1916, *Parasitology* 9 : 133, 134) placed *ferox* Giebel in *Esthiopterum* as a synonym of *E. diomedae* Fabricius ; he did not mention *diomedae* Dufour.

9. Hopkins (1946, *Entomologist* 79 : 4-7) discussed the question of the type-species of *Harrisoniella* Bedford, 1929, and pointed out that, although *Pediculus diomedae* Fabricius is a species of type B, Bedford's description of the genus applies to type A and definitely excludes type B, while all the references given by him, except that to the description of 1775, are to descriptions of members of type A ; moreover, Hopkins had seen Bedford's collection and had confirmed that the only specimens in it which were labelled *Harrisoniella diomedae* (Fabricius) were of type A and were specimens of the species described by Giebel as *Lipeurus ferox*. It is, therefore, beyond all possible doubt that the species intended by Bedford as the type-species of *Harrisoniella* was *Lipeurus ferox* Giebel, 1867 (*Philopterus diomedae* Dufour, 1835, not *Pediculus diomedae* Fabricius). Hopkins took the view that it is in accordance with commonsense and with the spirit of the *International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature* to accept as type-species of a genus the species that the author had before him when describing the genus rather than that which he erroneously supposed himself to have, and therefore that the type-species of *Harrisoniella* is *Esthiopterum diomedae* (Dufour *et auctorum*, not of Fabricius). This view has been accepted by subsequent authors with one exception (see para. 11), and in particular was expressed in the only comprehensive modern list of the Mallophaga (Hopkins and Clay, 1952, *Checklist of the genera and species of Mallophaga* : 165). Hopkins's view was in complete accord with Opinion 168 (*Ops. Decls. int. Comm. zool. Nomencl.* 2 : 421) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, which dealt with the question of misdetermined type-species of genera and which had supplemented and superseded Opinion 65 on the same subject, since the relevant portion of Opinion 168 read "*in the absence of evidence to the contrary, it is to be assumed that the original author of a genus correctly identified the species assigned by him thereto*" (the

italics are ours). The same qualifying phrase, placed by us in italics, is contained in the resolution passed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology at Paris in 1948 (see *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 158), but the qualifying words were deleted in 1953 (*Copenhagen Decisions on Zoological Nomenclature* : 68, para. 127). The effect of this change, so far as the taxa under discussion are concerned, was that under strict application of the Rules the type-species of *Harrisoniella*, which (in view of the conclusive evidence of a misdetermination of the nominal species designated as type) had been a species of type A must now be taken to be a species of type B, since Bedford must be assumed to have identified *Pediculus diomedae* Fabricius, 1775, correctly in spite of conclusive evidence to the contrary.

10. Clay (1940, *Sci. Rep. British Graham Land Exped.* 1 : 299–302, figs. 1, 2, 4a, 5a, 6a) redescribed *Perineus diomedae* (Fabricius, 1775) and proposed as neotype a male in the British Museum (Natural History), slide No. 309, obtained in São Paulo, Brazil, from *Diomedea m. melanophris* Temminck.

11. Von Kéler (1956, *Beitr. Ent.* 6 : 532–534) disagrees with the actions of Clay and Hopkins on several grounds. First he claims that the matter of misidentified type-species of genera was settled by Opinions 65 and 168, ignoring the inconclusive nature of the former and the qualifying words in the latter (which supplements and supersedes Opinion 65) and the fact that these qualifying words were not deleted until 1953. Next he claims that the species Fabricius had was possibly a straggler, not an albatross-parasite, but shows his own degree of faith in this argument by continuing to use *diomedae* Fabricius for the species represented by Clay's proposed neotype. Von Kéler's final argument is that, on morphological grounds, *diomedae* Fabricius, together with most of the other albatross-infesting species which have been referred by all other recent authors to *Perineus* are not congeneric with *Perineus nigrolimbatus* (Giebel, 1874) but with *Harrisoniella ferox* (Giebel, 1867).

12. The question of whether *Pediculus diomedae* Fabricius is congeneric with *Perineus nigrolimbatus* (Giebel) or with *Harrisoniella ferox* (Giebel) or with neither is clearly a matter of opinion with which the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature cannot deal. But it is obvious that all arguments on the subject will be vitiated and intense confusion will result so long as there is any doubt as to the identity of the species described by Fabricius as *Pediculus diomedae* and while some authors regard as type-species of *Harrisoniella* the large blackish species (*Lipeurus ferox* Giebel or *Philoptyerus diomedae* Dufour, 1835, *nec* Fabricius, 1775) which Bedford had before him when he described the genus, while others consider it to be the small and mainly white species (*Pediculus diomedae* Fabricius, 1775) which he, relying on an old misidentification which had been accepted by later authors, wrongly supposed himself to have. The former view, though in accordance with Opinion 168, which was in force when it was published, and though it has been accepted by all subsequent authors with one exception, was made incorrect by the alteration of the Rules made in 1953.

13. To avert the otherwise inevitable confusion, we ask that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should take the following action :—

- (1) use its plenary powers, under the procedure prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology for the determination of the type-species of genera based upon misidentified type-species, to set aside all designations of type-species for the genus *Harrisoniella* Bedford, 1929, made prior to the decision now proposed, and to designate *Lipeurus ferox* Giebel, 1867, to be the type-species of that genus ;
- (2) place the following generic names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology :—

- (a) *Harrisoniella* Bedford, 1929 (gender : feminine), type-species, by designation under the plenary powers as proposed in (1) above, *Lipeurus ferox* Giebel, 1867 ;

- (b) *Perineus* Harrison, 1936 (gender : masculine), type-species, by original designation, *Lipeurus nigrolimbatus* Giebel, 1874 ;

- (3) place the following specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology :—

- (a) *diomedae* Fabricius, 1775, as published in the binomen *Pediculus diomedae*, the species so named to be interpreted by the neotype proposed by Clay in 1940 ;

- (b) *ferox* Giebel, 1867, as published in the binomen *Lipeurus ferox* (type-species of *Harrisoniella* Bedford, 1929) ;

- (c) *nigrolimbatus* Giebel, 1874, as published in the binomen *Lipeurus nigrolimbatus* (type-species of *Perineus* Harrison, 1936).

14. No family-group names are based on the generic names *Harrisoniella* Bedford, 1929, and *Perineus* Harrison, 1936.